

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant acknowledges that claims 3-10 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant notes that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

I. Objection to the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 have been objected to due to minor informalities. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that the claims should be written using proper punctuation.

Applicant notes that claims 1 and 2, as well as the non-elected claims, have been amended herein so as to improve the form thereof, and that proper punctuation has been utilized in each of these claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi et al. (U.S. 6,144,318).

Claim 1, as amended, recites the features of a geography interpreting section configured to generate geographic information for indicating a characteristic of the area around the destination as a voice output; and a voice output section configured to output the voice output in response to only the assigning of the destination by the user, in accordance with the geographic

information generated at the geography interpreting section. Applicant respectfully submits that Hayashi does not disclose or suggest such a combination of features.

Regarding Hayashi, Applicant notes that this reference discloses a navigation method for providing a user with route guidance to a destination by displaying a structure-shape map showing building shapes and roads (see col. 1, lines 42-45). In this regard, as disclosed in Hayashi, the navigation method calculates a route to an entered destination and provides route guidance to the user by display or voice as the present position of the user changes (see col. 1, lines 55-58).

In addition, as explained in Hayashi, there are certain cases where route guidance to a desired destination has been performed, but when the user reaches the destination, because there is no place for parking, the user is forced to park in a parking lot that is distant from the destination (see col. 16, line 54 through col. 17, line 4). In such a situation, Hayashi discloses that the navigation method is able to perform re-searching in order to provide the user with a route from the parking lot to the destination using landmark information displayed on a structure-shape map (see col. 17, lines 44-48 and col. 18, lines 21-25).

For example, as shown in Fig. 20 of Hayashi, after the navigation method performs the above-noted re-searching because the user was forced to park in a parking lot distant from the desired destination, a route to the destination to be reached by foot is displayed, thereby making it possible for the user to confirm, according to need, building names and shapes of public facilities and other structures (see col. 19, lines 1-7).

Thus, in Hayashi, a user enters a desired destination and route guidance is output to the

user by voice as the present position of the user changes, and upon reaching the desired destination, if the user is forced to park in a parking lot that is distant from the desired destination, then a re-searching process is performed which results in a structure-shape map being displayed to the user showing a route that should be taken to reach the destination by foot.

As noted above, claim 1 recites the features of a geography interpreting section configured to generate geographic information for indicating a characteristic of the area around the destination as a voice output; and a voice output section configured to output the voice output in response to only the assigning of the destination by the user.

Regarding the above-noted features, Applicant submits that while Hayashi discloses that route guidance can be output to the user by voice as the present position of the user changes (see col. 1, lines 55-58), that Hayashi does not disclose that geographic information indicating a characteristic of the area around the destination is output to the user as voice. Instead, Applicant notes that the landmark information on the structure-shape map of Hayashi is merely displayed for the user on the display unit 12 (e.g., see col. 1, lines 60-64 and col. 19, lines 1-2).

Further, regarding the above-noted features, Applicant also submits that while Hayashi is able to display a structure-shape map showing landmark information around a user's desired destination (e.g., see Fig. 20), that Hayashi does not display the landmark information around the destination in response to only the assigning of the destination by the user. Instead, in Hayashi, the user assigns a desired destination, then travels to the destination using the route guidance, and when in the general vicinity of the destination (e.g., when parked at a parking lot in the general

vicinity of the destination as shown in Fig. 20), the landmark information around the user's desired destination is displayed.

Thus, in Hayashi, because (1) the landmark information on the structure-shape map is not output as voice, but is merely displayed for the user on the display unit, and (2) the landmark information around the user's desired destination is not output as voice in response to only the assigning of the destination by the user, Applicant submits that Hayashi does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features of a geography interpreting section configured to generate geographic information for indicating a characteristic of the area around the destination as a voice output; and a voice output section configured to output the voice output in response to only the assigning of the destination by the user, as recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over Hayashi, an indication of which is kindly requested. Regarding claim 2 and non-elected claims 3-10, Applicant notes that these claims depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

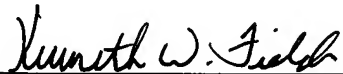
III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Shinichi YOSHIOKA

By: 
Kenneth W. Fields
Registration No. 52,430
Attorney for Applicant

KWF/ra
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
January 24, 2008